

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Ralph C. Link, Pastor
 Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
 Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP January 14, 1973

The Organ Prelude
 *The Hymn of Praise 1
 *The Call to Worship
 *The Prayer of Confession (Unison)
 O holy Father, we confess that both as individuals and as a Church, we have been too much preoccupied with ourselves and too little concerned for the welfare of others. Thou hast taught us to help to bear the burdens of our brethren in Christ; but often we have failed to support the weak, to help the needy, and to encourage the disheartened. Thou hast commanded us to let our light shine out in the world; but we have failed to bear witness to Christ before men, and to seek them that are lost. For all our disobedience, carelessness, and lovelessness, we implore thy forgiveness. Cleanse us from our sin, in His name we pray. Amen.
 *The Kyrie
 *The Assurance of Pardon
 The Scripture --- John 1:35-51
 *The Gloria Patri
 The Anthem (Trinity)
 The Pastoral Prayer
 The Choral Response (Trinity)
 The Announcements
 The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
 *The Doxology
 *The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
 *The Hymn of Meditation 331
 The Sermon --- "The Call to Service!"
 *The Sermon Prayer
 *The Hymn of Response 205
 *The Benediction

BAPTISM
 → INITIATION
 & OFF.
 TRINITY

*The Threefold Amen
 *The Postlude

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
 Bible Study will be held on Wed. evening
 January 17th at 7:30 PM in Duncannon.

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS
 This morning we are happy to share in the joy of Mr. & Mrs. John Slusser as they present their daughter Amy Brooke for Christian Baptism.

Mrs. Carolyn Magee is in Room 151 of the Osteopathic Hospital.

The Consistory will meet on Tues. evening
 January 16th at 7:30 PM.

Women's projects for 1973 (collected Sunday's and at our monthly meetings) are: discarded eyeglasses--lenses with or without frames; unwanted trading stamps of any kind; used postage stamps--with the exception of ordinary 1¢ thru 8¢ USA stamps pre cancelled or meter postmarked. Everyone can help, even your friends and neighbors. Give the above to Virginia Lesh, Esther Kitner or Edna Boggs.

VISITORS -- WELCOME -- SOUTH MEETING 7:00 P.M.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS
 Next Sunday Jan. 21st, we will have our annual Congregation Meeting. This will take place following the Church service. This year we will have a buffet lunch and we hope all of you will plan to be with us.

This morning we are happy to share in the joy of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Rissinger as they present their daughter Leah Marie for Christian baptism. Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Lane are the sponsors.

REPORTS WILL BE GIVEN. SIGN THE SHEET & IF UNCERTAIN AT THIS TIME CALL CLAUDE STEELE BY WED.
 PICTURES WILL BE SHOWN SAT. 9.
 STAY

In the morning: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to His name the most High; to declare His steadfast love in the morning, and His faithfulness at night.

Call to Confession: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Let us therefore humbly confess our sin to God and seek His forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Let us pray;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us, and hath given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgiveth all our sins. To them that believe on His name, He gives power to become the sons of God, and bestoweth upon them His Holy Spirit. Amen.

"The Call to Service!"

WITNESSING

Text: John 1:38, 46b, "Come and see!"

JOHN

(Illustration of little girl and mother calling her)

Here is an example of answering the call of a parent, or perhaps we could better describe it as a lesson in obedience. But in any event it shows us the willingness on the part of the little girl to obey a certain command.

In our Scripture this morning we read of Jesus answering the question of two of John's disciples with the words, "Come and see." Then in a few short verses later we again read this phrase "come and see" but this time it is uttered by Philip in response to a question of Nathaniel.

The Jewish Rabbi used the phrase in their teachings. They would say, "Do you want to know the answer to this question? Do you want to know the solution to this problem? Come ~~xxxx~~ and see and we will think about it together." When Jesus told the two disciples, "Come and see", he was inviting them to not only come and talk, but to come and find out the things that he alone could give them.

Here is a beautiful little story in these few verses of scripture. Picture if you will Jesus walking along the banks of the river Jordan on the day following his baptism by John. He is just walking ~~NEARBY~~ and John tells those assembled near him, Take a good look at that fellow walking along the waters edge there, That is "The Lamb of God." Two of the disciples of John hear this and they start to follow Jesus. ~~They~~ took this as ~~an introduction to Jesus.~~ Turning around Jesus looked at them and they asked Him, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" This was not just a question of idle curiosity, but one in which you could draw a response from this man. If he did not want anything to do with them, he would merely give them a non-committal answer and they would have returned to John. But if he was going to be friendly then he would invite them to go along with him. So Jesus answers them, "Come and see." We are told

— 10 —

... 1:1, "...

And they came and they saw where he was staying, and they stayed with Him that day since it was about the 10th hour. This would place the time at about 4 o'clock. There is some speculation as to why this time is placed in the scripture. One thought is that the author of the Gospel of John, or John the beloved disciple of Jesus, was one of the two unidentified disciples in this passage. This could very easily be the case, since when a person meets Christ he is not bound to forget it. It could very easily be that John met Jesus that day spring day in Galilee at 4 o'clock, and thus was able to state this matter of factly.

The other man is identified as Andrew the brother of Simon Peter in the next section of scripture. So we find him going to his brother, and he does this the very first thing the next morning. He excitedly tells him, "We have found the Messiah." He wanted to impart this bit of great news since they were Jews and all of the Jews were looking for the Messiah to come. So Andrew brings his brother Peter to Jesus and immediately Jesus lets Peter know that he is aware of some of his history, and he identifies him as the son of John, and gives him the name of Rock or Cephas.

Jesus sets out for Galilee and meets Philip and calls him to be a disciple by saying, "Follow me." Philip we are told is from the same city as Bethsaida, as Andrew and Peter, and evidently he wanted his good friend to share in this new venture and so he seeks him out. When he finds Nathaniel and tells him of the news, Nathaniel makes the classic remark, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" And Philip answers with the same words Jesus used the day before, "Come and see."

So we have here in this story an invitation to come and see, an invitation to see the revelation of God. Once the words are from the lips of Jesus and once from one of his followers to another follower. It is rather ironic that in the life of Jesus the words alluding to His revelation ^{IN THIS SCRIPTURE ARE ALSO} present at his birth, the shepherds are out in the fields and the ~~xxxxx~~ angels tell them of the birth of this Jesus

And when the angels are gone away they say to one another, "Come let us go into Bethlehem to see this thing that has come to pass that the angels have made known to us."

At the beginning of his ministry he is identified by John who points him out and says, come and see the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. After he has been killed, the following day ~~the following day~~ ^{ARRIVE AT} ~~those who loved him~~ the tomb and when they find it empty are met by an angel who tells them, "He is not here, he is risen, come see the place where the Lord lay."

During his life he extended the invitation to follow him with, "Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." And so it is if we are to meet this Jesus of Nazareth we must accept his invitation and come to Him. This is the call to service. (Illustration of one lawyer failing to tell another of Christ and losing the opportunity forever.)

Now here is a case whereby one person lost the chance to tell another about Jesus. This is not an isolated case either, for too often it happens because the Christian is either unwilling or unable to share his Saviour with others. This is what Key 73 is asking of you and me. It is asking us to each one share our Saviour with others. It is asking each and every Christian regardless of Denomination to become involved in witnessing about Christ. This should be our joy and something that should warm ~~through~~ us to the very core of our being, the sharing of Jesus Christ. Just a few short weeks ago we celebrated the birth of this Saviour. Doesn't the very thought of Christmas make us happy and loving? Doesn't the season make us think of happy homes, warm secure feelings toward many other people? Doesn't Christmas speak to us of giving and love? I think it does, but these thoughts and these feelings should not just fade away and disappear never to return until next year at Christmas time again. They should remain with us each day of the

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)



SEP 56







Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
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Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.